

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A nematic liquid crystal composition comprising[[:]]

at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1) and [(IB)] (IB-3), the total content being from 10 to [[70]] 40% by mass, at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3), (IIB-5), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID), the total content being from 10 to 70% by mass, the content of the compound represented by the general formula (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9) and (IIC-10) being from 10 to 40% by mass, the total content of the compounds selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1), (IB-3), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9) and (IIC-10) being from 45 to 70% by mass,

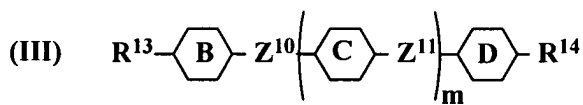
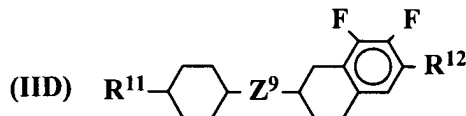
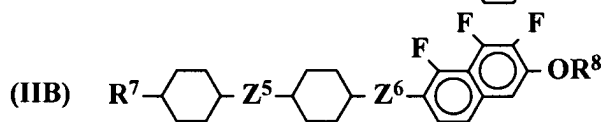
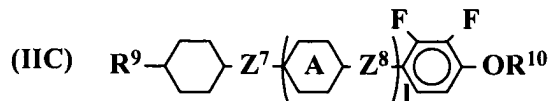
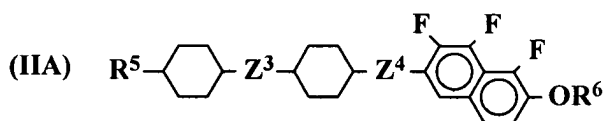
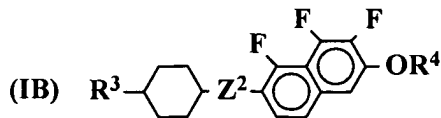
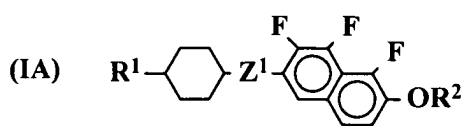
the total content of at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1), (IB-3), (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3), (IIB-5), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID) being from 35 to 80% by mass, and

a compound represented by the general formula (III) in the content of 20 to 65% by mass,

wherein a dielectric constant anisotropy is within a range from -12 to -3,

a nematic phase-isotropic liquid phase transition temperature (T_{N-I}) is within a range from 80 to 120°C, and

a viscosity is 45 mPa·s or less:



wherein R^1 , R^3 , R^5 , R^7 , R^9 , R^{11} , R^{12} , R^{13} and R^{14} each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one, or two or more CH_2 groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{CO}-$ $[[,]]$ or $-\text{COO}-$, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly;

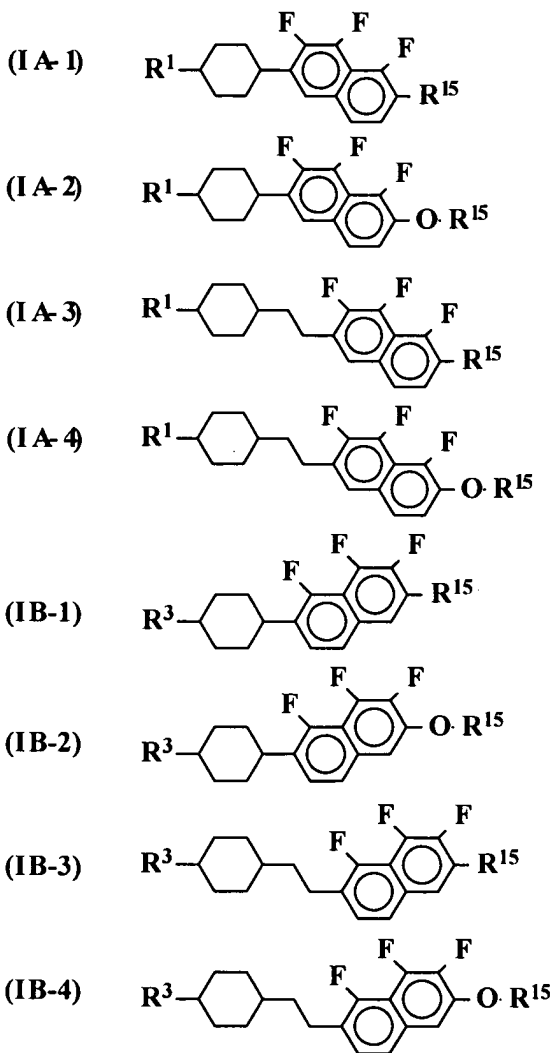
R^2 , R^4 , R^6 , R^8 and R^{10} each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one, or two or more CH_2 groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{CO}-$ or $-\text{COO}-$, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

Z^1 to Z^6 and Z^9 to Z^{11} each independently represents a single bond, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$, $-\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CHCH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$, $-\text{OCH}_2-$, $-\text{CF}_2\text{O}-$, $-\text{COO}-$, or $-\text{OCO}-$;

Z^7 and Z^8 each independently represents a single bond, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$, $-\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CHCH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$, or $-\text{OCH}_2-$; l and m represents 0 or 1;

A represents a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group or a 1,4-phenylene group; and

B, C and D each independently represents a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group, a 1,4-phenylene group, or a trans-1,4-cyclohexenylene group,
and

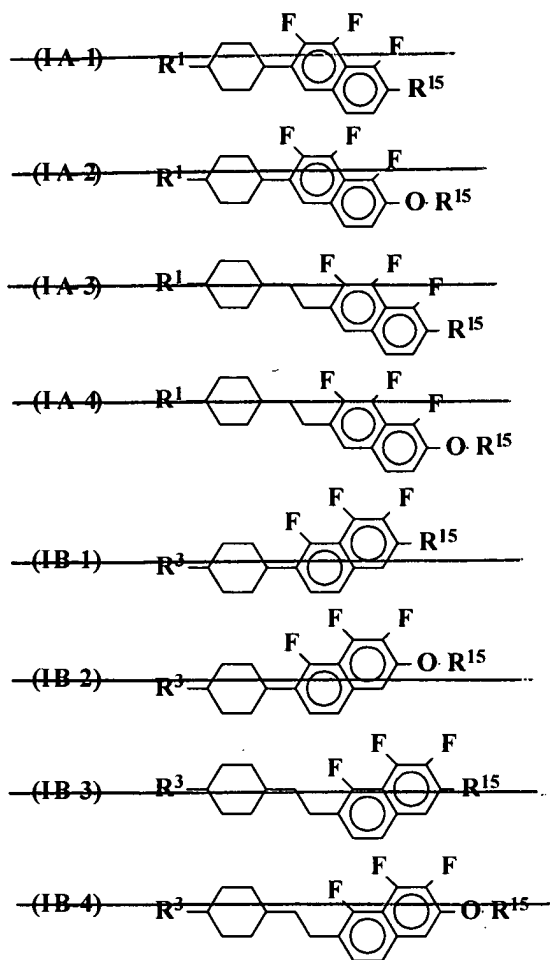


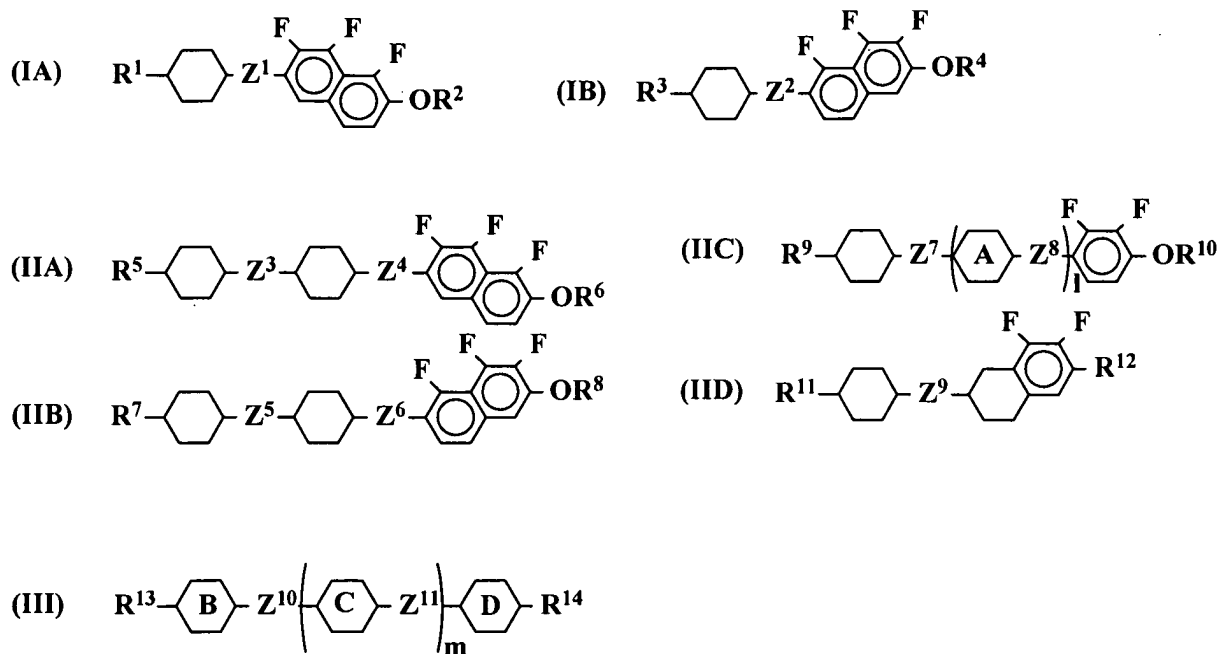
wherein R¹ and R³ represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH₂ groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and R¹⁵ represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): [[The]] A nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 1, wherein the comprising at least one compound selected from the group of compounds

represented by the general formula ~~formulas~~ (IA) ~~comprises compounds represented by the~~
~~general formulas (IA-1) to (IA-4), and~~

~~the compound represented by the general formula (IB) comprises compounds represented~~
~~by the general formulas (IB-1) to (IB-4);~~ (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1) and (IB-3), the total
content being from 25 to 60% by mass, at least one compound selected from the group of
compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1),
(IIB-3), (IIB-5), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID), the total content being from
10 to 70% by mass, the total content of the compounds selected from the general formulas (IA),
(IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1), (IB-3), (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3) and
(IIB-5), being from 35 to 65% by mass, the total content of at least one compound selected from
the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1),
(IB-3), (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3), (IIB-5), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7),
(IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID) being from 35 to 80% by mass, and a compound represented by the
general formula (III) in the content of 35 to 65% by mass, wherein a dielectric constant
anisotropy is within a range from -12 to -3, a nematic phase-isotropic liquid phase transition
temperature (T_{N-I}) is within a range from 80 to 120, and a viscosity is 45 mPa·s or less:





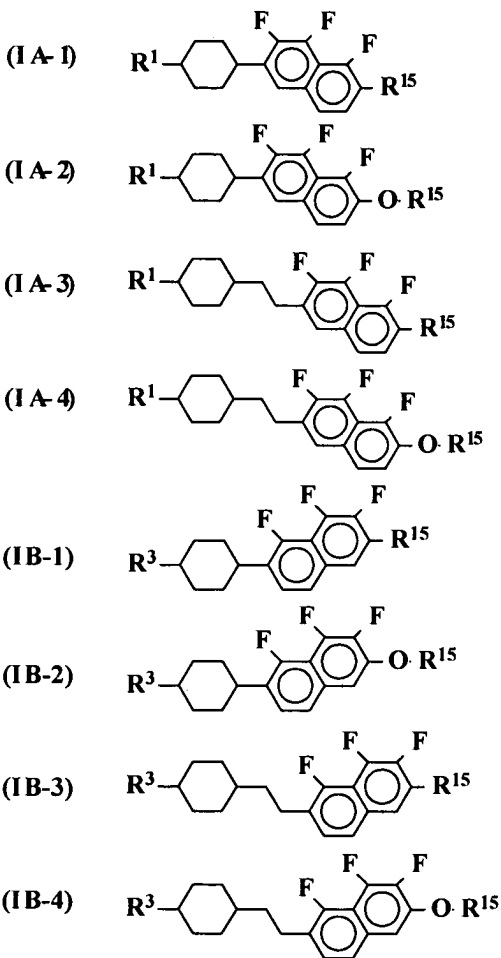
wherein R^1 [[and]], R^3 , R^5 , R^7 , R^9 , R^{11} , R^{12} , R^{13} and R^{14} each independently ~~represent~~ represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one, or two or more CH_2 groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with $-O-$, $-CO-$ or $-COO-$, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly[[, and]];

[[R^{15}]] R^2 , R^4 , R^6 , R^8 and R^{10} each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one, or two or more CH_2 groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with $-O-$, $-CO-$ or $-COO-$, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

Z^1 to Z^6 and Z^9 to Z^{11} each independently represents a single bond, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2O-$, $-OCH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH=CHCH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH=CH-$, $-C\equiv C-$, $-CH_2O-$, $-OCH_2-$, $-CF_2O-$, $-COO-$, or $-OCO-$; Z^7 and Z^8 each independently represents a single bond, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2O-$, $-OCH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH=CHCH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH=CH-$, $-C\equiv C-$, $-CH_2O-$, or $-OCH_2-$; l and m represent 0 or 1; A represents a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group or a 1,4-phenylene group; and B , C and D each

independently represents a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group, a 1,4-phenylene group, or a trans-1,4-cyclohexenylene group,

and

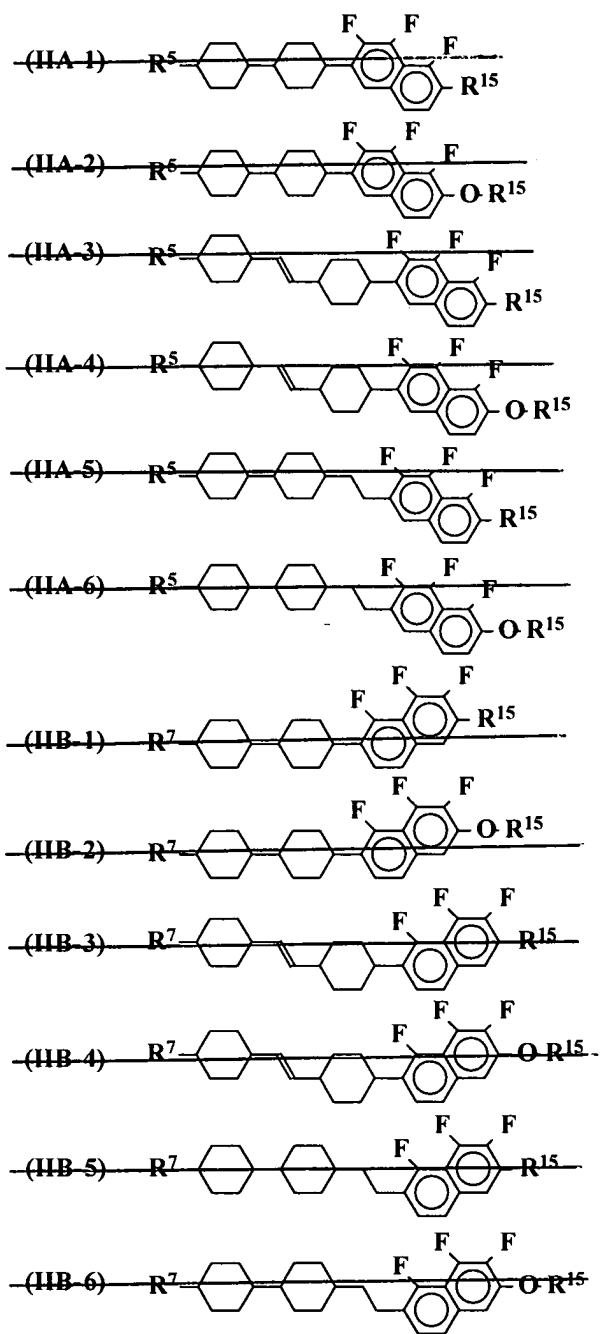


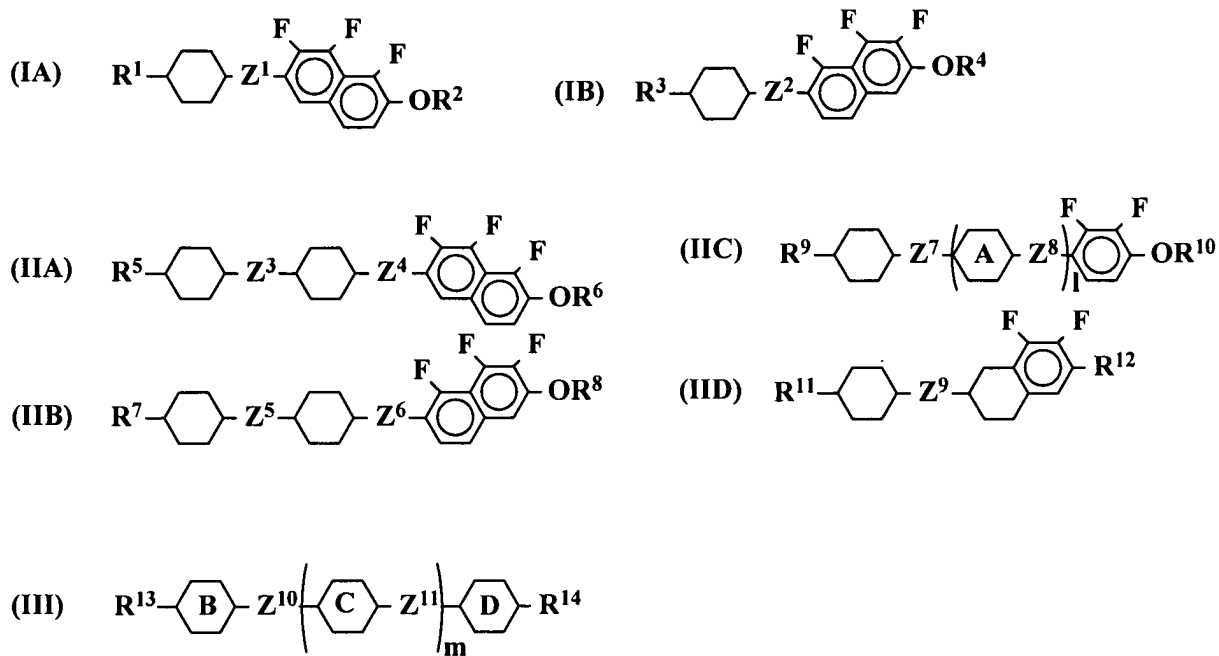
wherein R¹ and R³ represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH₂ groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

R¹⁵ represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~[[The]]~~ A nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 1, wherein the comprising at least one compound represented by the general formula (IIA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA-1) to (IIA-6), and

the compound represented by the general formula (IIB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIB-1) to (IIB-6); selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1) and (IB-3), the total content being from 20 to 70% by mass, at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3), (IIB-5), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID), the total content being from 10 to 70% by mass, the total content of the compounds selected from the group of compounds selected from the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1), (IB-3), (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3) and (IIB-5), being from 20 to 60% by mass, the total content of the compounds selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID) being from 30 to 60% by mass, the total content of the compounds selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IA-1), (IA-3), (IB), (IB-1), (IB-3), (IIA), (IIA-1), (IIA-3), (IIA-5), (IIB), (IIB-1), (IIB-3), (IIB-5), (IIC), (IIC-3), (IIC-7), (IIC-9), (IIC-10) and (IID) being from 70 to 80% by mass, and a compound represented by the general formula (III) in the content of 20 to 65% by mass, wherein a dielectric constant anisotropy is within a range from -12 to -3, a nematic phase-isotropic liquid phase transition temperature (T_{N-I}) is within a range from 80 to 120°C, and a viscosity is 45 mPa·s or less;





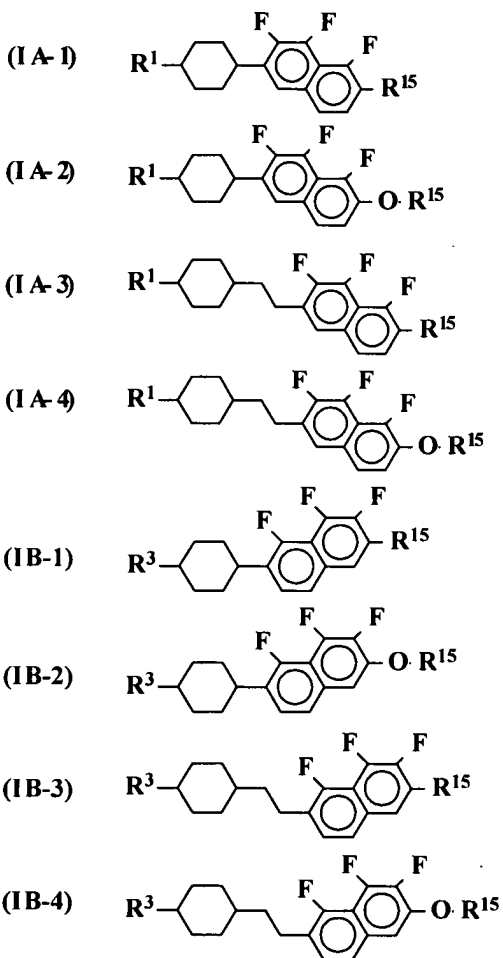
wherein $R^1, R^3, R^5, R^7, R^9, R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13}$ and R^{14} each independently ~~represent~~ represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one, or two or more CH_2 groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with $-O-$, $-CO-$ or $-COO-$, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly[[,]]; ~~represent~~

R^2, R^4, R^6, R^8 and R^{10} each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one, or two or more CH_2 groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with $-O-$, $-CO-$ or $-COO-$, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

Z^1 to Z^6 and Z^9 to Z^{11} each independently represents a single bond, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2O-$, $-OCH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH=CHCH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH=CH-$, $-C\equiv C-$, $-CH_2O-$, $-OCH_2-$, $-CF_2O-$, $-COO-$, or $-OCO-$; Z^7 and Z^8 each independently represents a single bond, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2O-$, $-OCH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH=CHCH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH=CH-$, $-C\equiv C-$, $-CH_2O-$, or $-OCH_2-$; l and m represent 0 or 1; A represents a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group or a 1,4-phenylene group; and B, C and D each

independently represents a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group, a 1,4-phenylene group, or a trans-1,4-cyclohexenylene group,

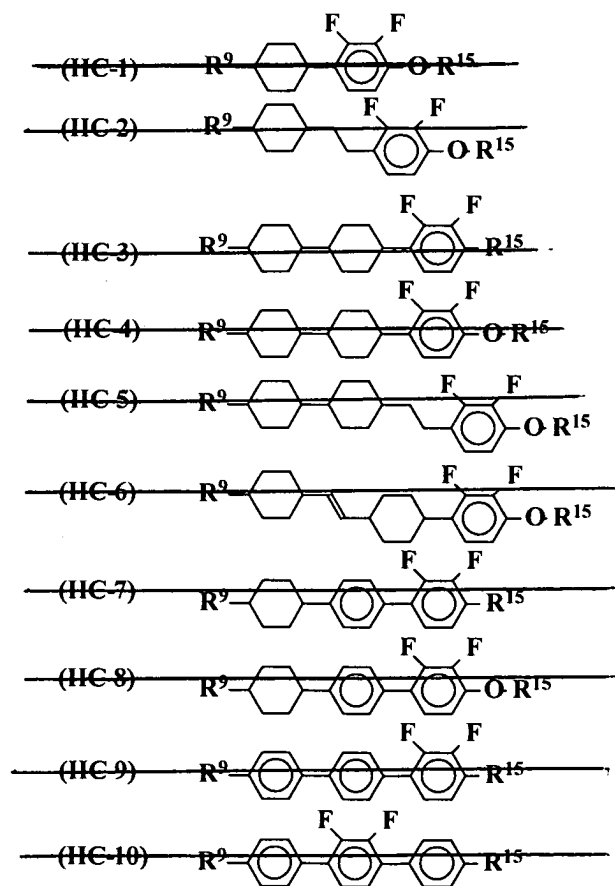
and

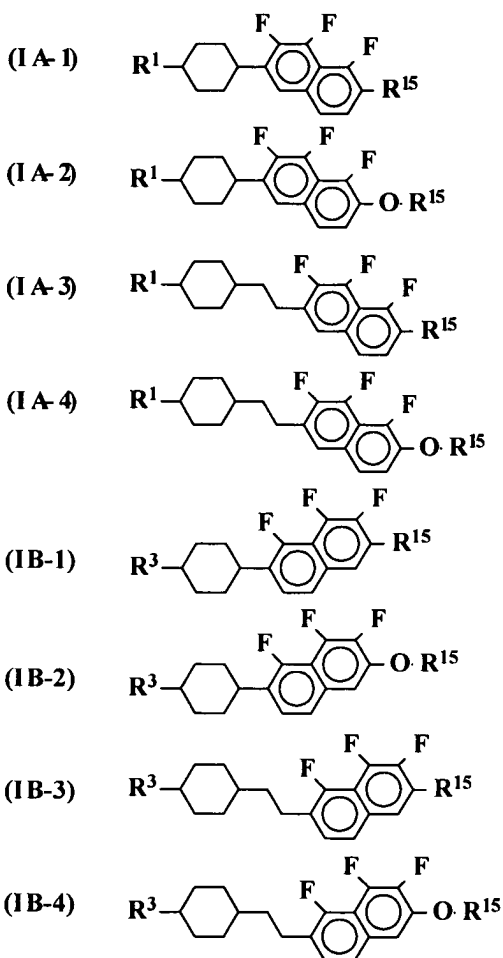


wherein R¹ and R³ each substituent preferably represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms [or], an alkenyl alkoxy group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, and said alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, a 1-propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group, and 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH₂ groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

R¹⁵ represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the general formula $[(IIC)]$ (IA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (HC-1) to (HC-10) (IA-2) or (IA-4), and the compound represented by the general formula (IB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IB-2) or (IB-4):

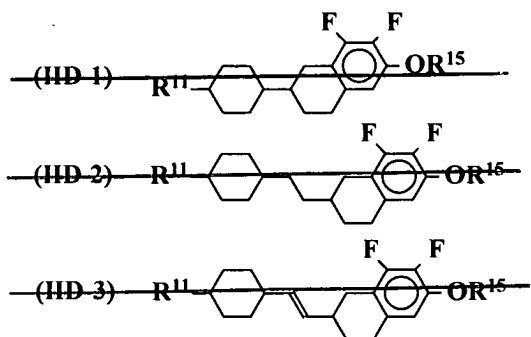


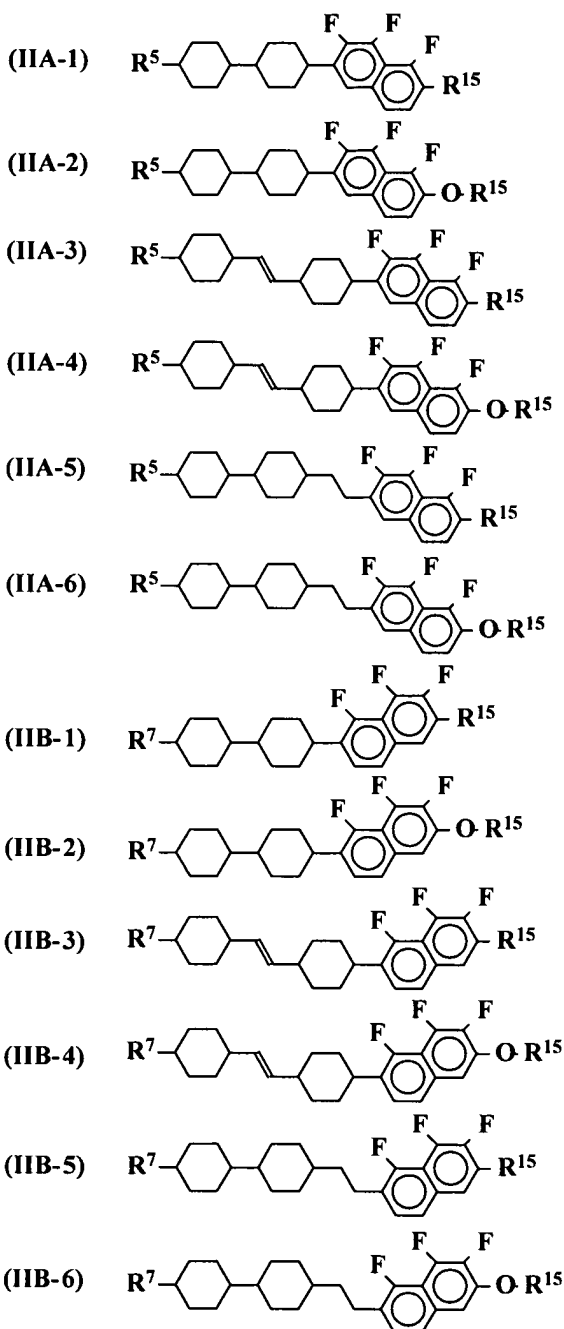


wherein R^9 represents R^1 and R^3 represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH_2 groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with $-O-$, $-CO-$ or $-COO-$, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and R^{15} represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IID) ~~comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IID-1) to (IID-3)~~ (IIA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA-2), (IIA-4) or (IIA-6), and the compound represented by the general

formula (IIB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIB-2), (IIB-4) or (IIB-6):



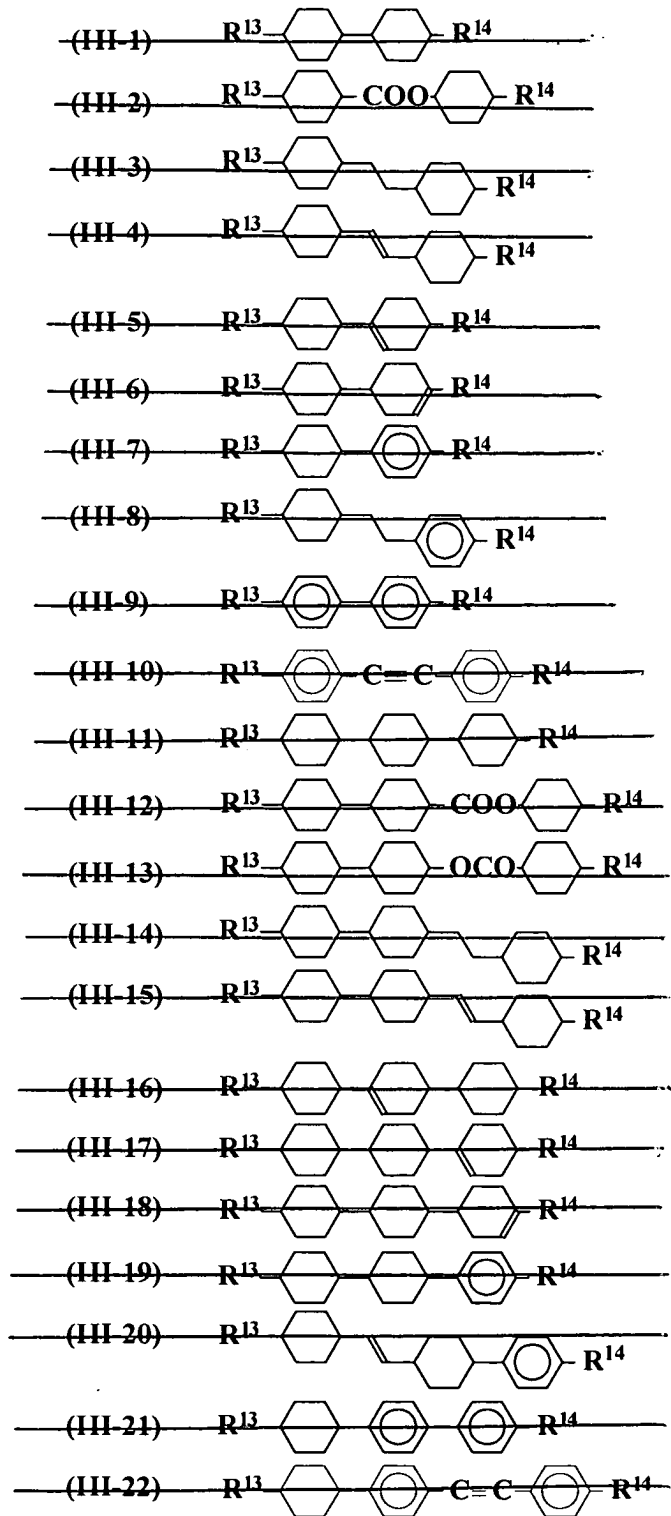


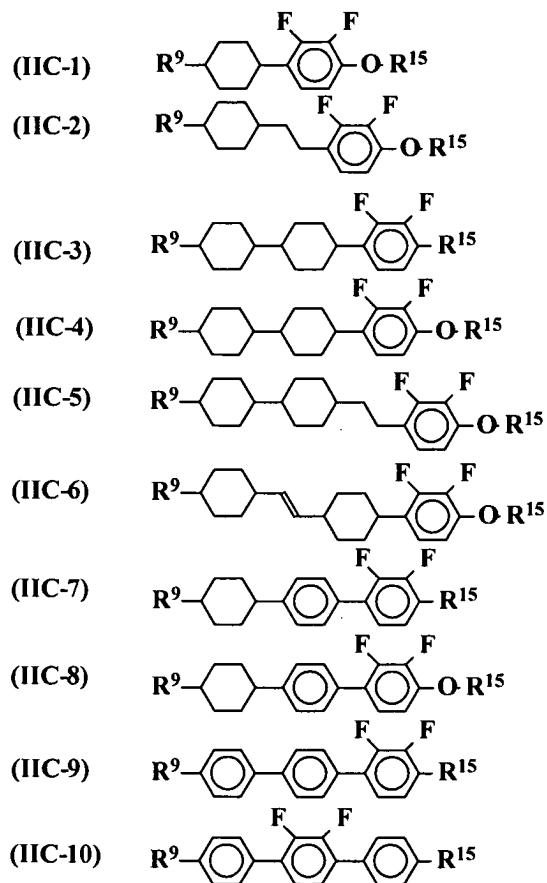
wherein R^{14} represents R^5 and R^7 represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more CH_2 groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with $-O-$, $-CO-$ or $-COO-$, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, [[the]] and each substituent preferably represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or

an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, and ~~[[said]]~~ the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, ~~[[a]]~~ 1-propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group, and

R¹⁵ represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the general formula ~~[[(III)]]~~ (IIC) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas ~~(II-1) to (II-22)~~ (IIC-1), (IIC-2), (IIC-4), (IIC-5), (IIC-6) or (IIC-8):





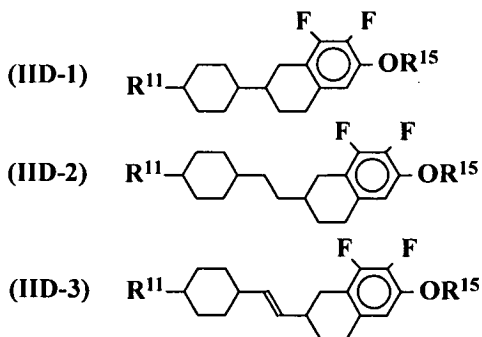
wherein R^{13} and R^{14} represent R^9 represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH_2 groups, which are present represent in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with $-O-$, $-CO-$, or $-COO-$, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, each substitute independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, preferably, and said alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, a 1-propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group and R^{15} represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 7 (previously amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to any one of claims 2 to 6 wherein the total content of the compounds selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA) and (IB) is from 10 to 40% by mass,

~~the content of the compound represented by the general formula (IIC) is from 10 to 40% by mass,~~

~~the total content of the compounds selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IB) and (IIC) is from 45 to 70% by mass, and~~

~~the content of the compound represented by the general formula (III) is from 30 to 55% by mass~~ claim 1, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IID) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IID-1) to (IID-3):

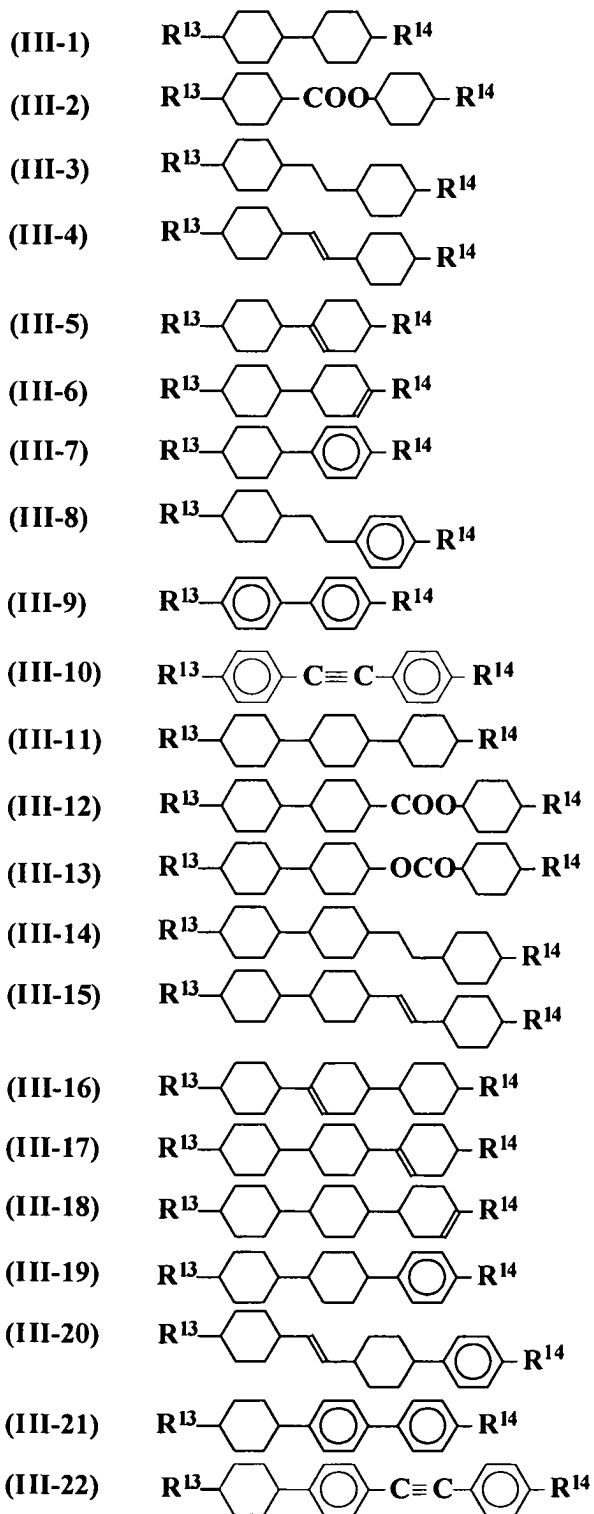


wherein R¹¹ represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more CH₂ groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, the substituent preferably represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, a 1-propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group, and R¹⁵ represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to ~~any one of~~ claims 2 to 6 claim 1, wherein the total content of the compounds selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA) and (IB) is from 25 to 60% by mass,

~~the total content of the compounds selected from the group of compounds represented by the general formulas (IA), (IB), (IIA) and (IIB) is from 35 to 65% by mass, and~~

~~the content of the compound represented by the general formula (III) is from 35 to 65%~~
by mass compound represented by the general formula (III) comprises compounds represented
by the general formulas (III-1) to (III-22):



wherein R¹³ and R¹⁴ represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atom, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more CH₂ groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, each substituent independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, preferably, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, a 1-propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group.

Claim 9: (Canceled)

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to ~~claim 7~~ claim 4, wherein the dielectric constant anisotropy is within a range from -6 to -3,

the nematic phase-isotropic liquid phase transition temperature (T_{N-I}) is within a range from 80 to 120°C,

the refractive index anisotropy is within a range from 0.07 to 0.15, and

the viscosity is 30 mPa·s or less.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to ~~claim 8~~ claim 4, wherein the dielectric constant anisotropy is within a range from -6 to -3,

the nematic phase-isotropic liquid phase transition temperature (T_{N-I}) is within a range from 80 to 120°C,

the refractive index anisotropy is within a range from 0.07 to 0.15, and

the viscosity is 30 mPa·s or less.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to ~~claim 9~~ claim 4, wherein the dielectric constant anisotropy is within a range from -12 to -6,

the nematic phase-isotropic liquid phase transition temperature (T_{N-I}) is within a range from 80 to 120°C,

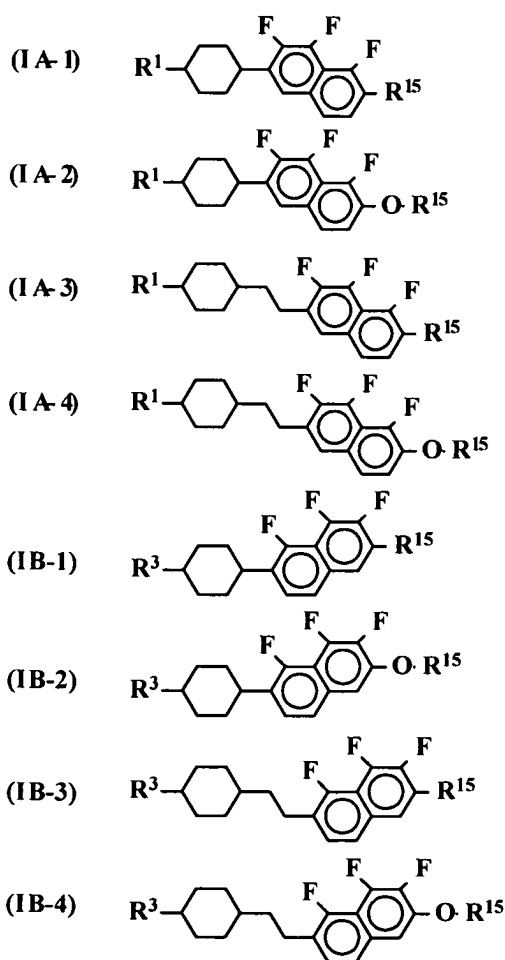
the refractive index anisotropy is within a range from 0.07 to 0.15, and

the viscosity is 45 mPa·s or less.

Claim 13 (Original): A liquid crystal display device for active matrix display, using the nematic liquid crystal composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1.

Claim 14 (Original): A liquid crystal display device for VA mode, IPS mode or ECB mode, using the nematic liquid crystal composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1.

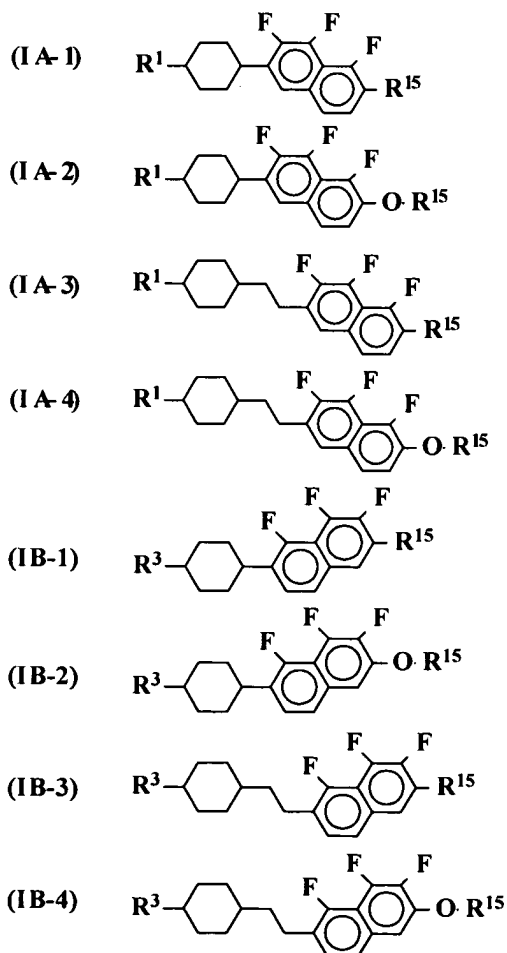
Claim 15 (New): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 2, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IA-2) or (IA-4), and the compound represented by the general formula (IB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IB-2) or (IB-4):



wherein R^1 and R^3 represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH_2 groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with $-O-$, $-CO-$ or $-COO-$, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

R^{15} represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

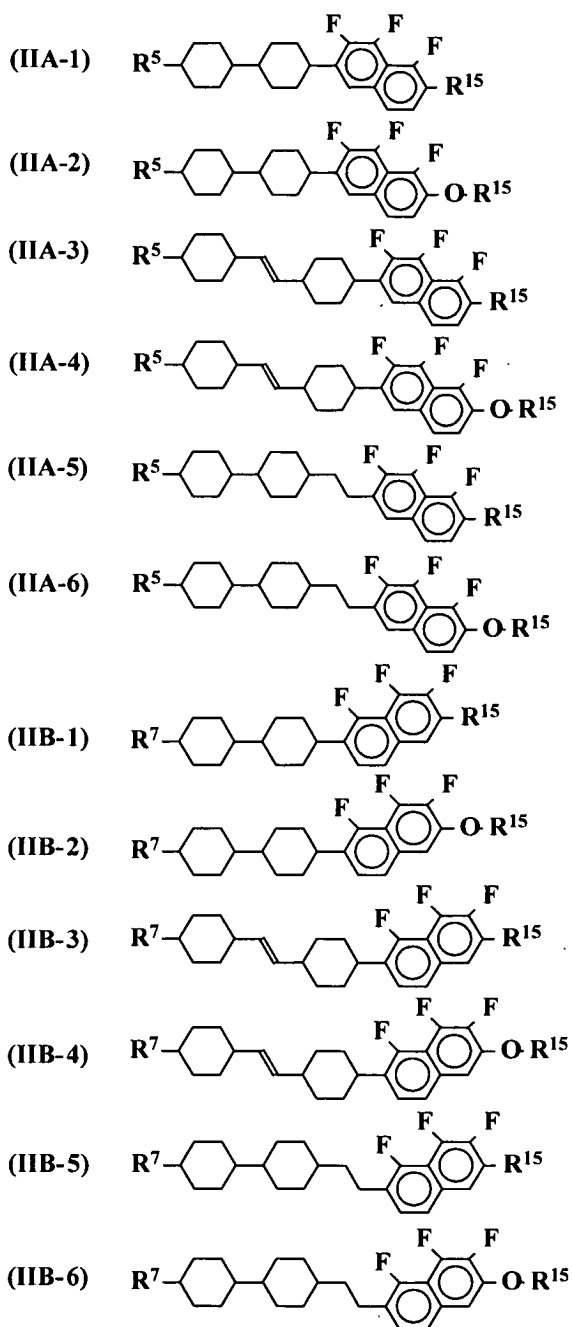
Claim 16 (New): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 3, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IA-2) or (IA-4), and the compound represented by the general formula (IB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IB-2) or (IB-4):



wherein R¹ and R³ represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH₂ groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly; and

R¹⁵ represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 17 (New): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 2, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IIA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA-2), (IIA-4) or (IIA-6), and the compound represented by the general formula (IIB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIB-2), (IIB-4) or (IIB-6):

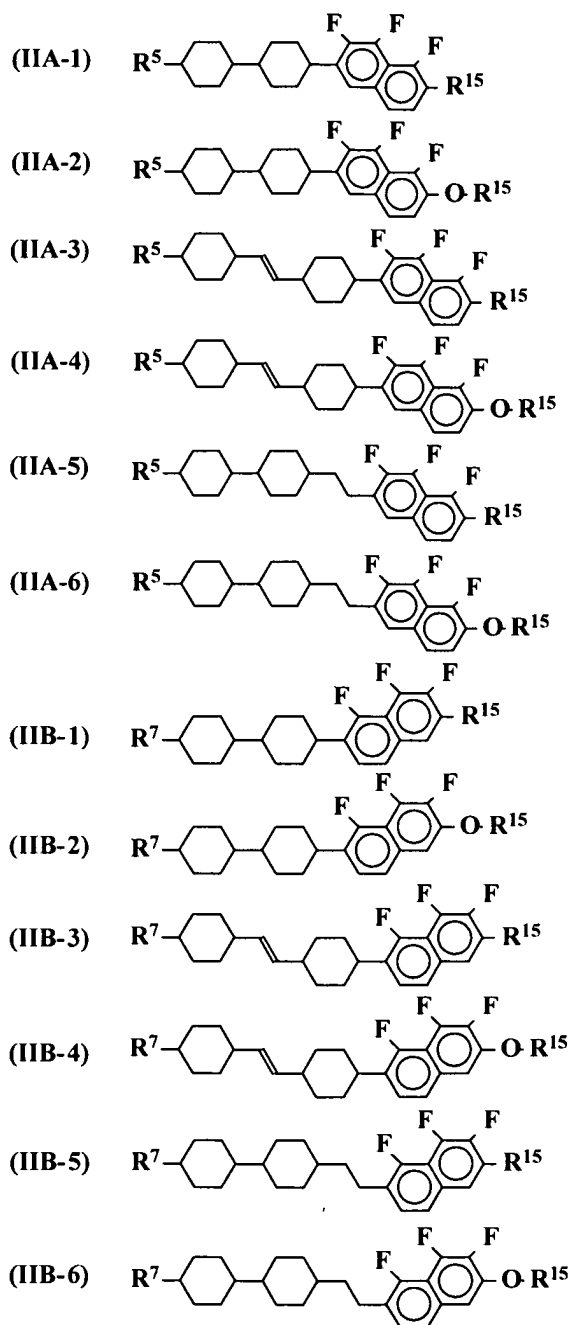


wherein R^5 and R^7 represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more CH_2 groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with $-O-$, $-CO-$ or $-COO-$, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, and each substituent preferably represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to

5 carbon atoms, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, 1-propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group, and

R^{15} represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 18 (New): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 3, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IIA) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIA-2), (IIA-4) or (IIA-6), and the compound represented by the general formula (IIB) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIB-2), (IIB-4) or (IIB-6):

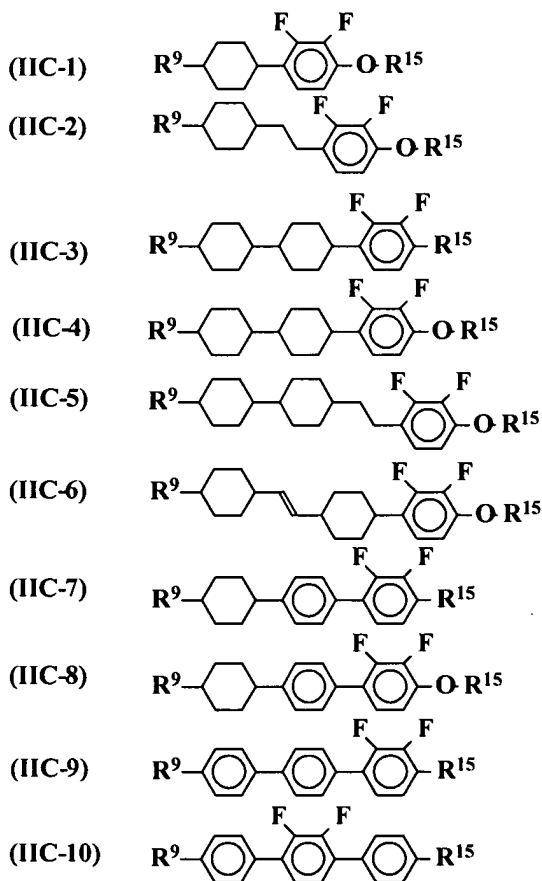


wherein R^5 and R^7 represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more CH_2 groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with $-O-$, $-CO-$ or $-COO-$, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, and each substituent preferably represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to

5 carbon atoms, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, 1-propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group, and

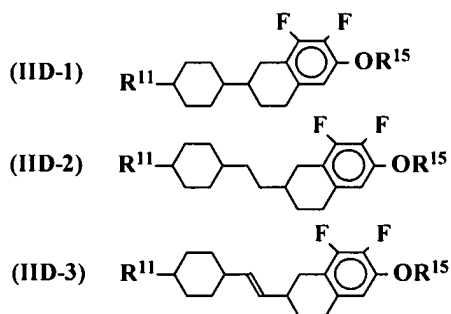
R^{15} represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 19 (New): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 2, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IIC) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IIC-1), (IIC-2), (IIC-4), (IIC-5), (IIC-6) or (IIC-8):



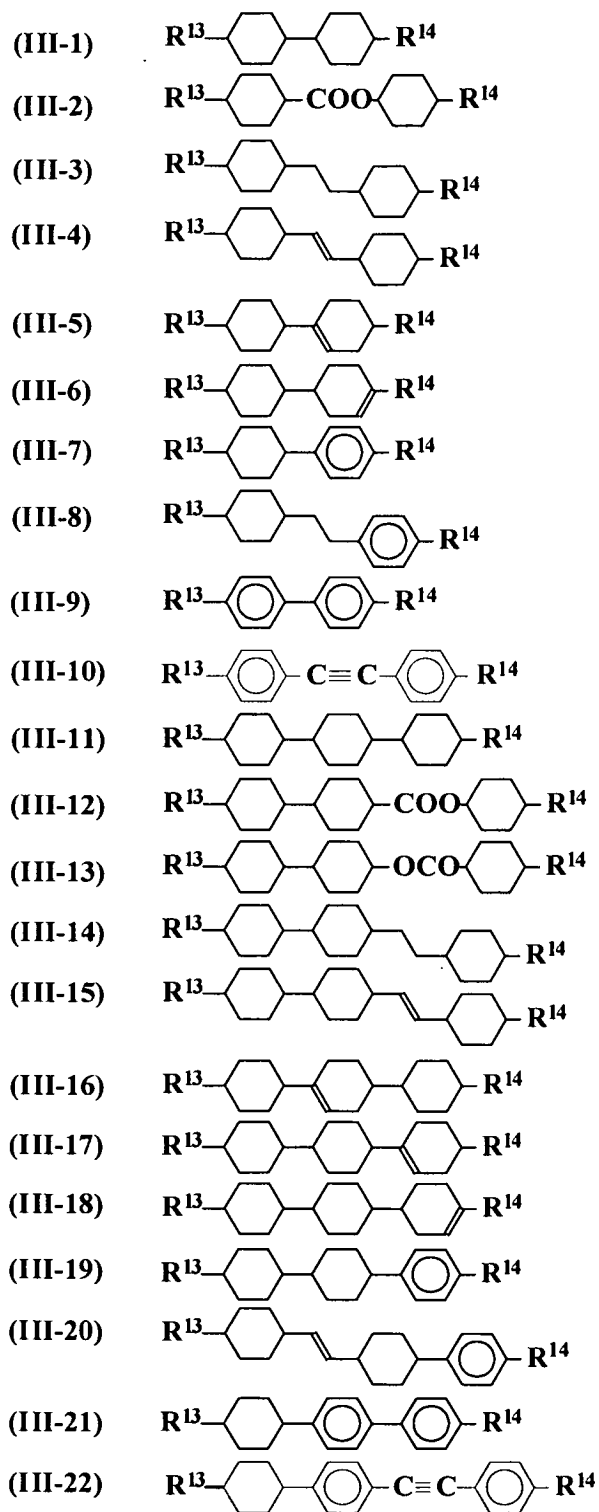
wherein R^9 represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, and one or more CH_2 groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with $-O-$, $-CO-$, or $-COO-$, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, and R^{15} represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 20 (New): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 2, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (IID) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (IID-1) to (IID-3):



wherein R^{11} represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more CH_2 groups, which are present in said alkyl group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with $-O-$, $-CO-$ or $-COO-$, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, the substituent preferably represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, a 1-propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group, and R^{15} represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 21 (New): The nematic liquid crystal composition according to claim 2, wherein the compound represented by the general formula (III) comprises compounds represented by the general formulas (III-1) to (III-22):



wherein R^{13} and R^{14} represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 10 carbon atom, or an alkenyloxy group having 2 to 10 carbon atoms, one or more CH_2 groups, which are present in said alkyl

group, said alkoxy group, said alkenyl group or said alkenyloxy group, may be substituted with -O-, -CO- or -COO-, while O atoms do not bond with each other directly, each substituent independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms or an alkenyl group having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, preferably, and the alkenyl group is particularly preferably a vinyl group, a 1-propenyl group, or a 3-butenyl group.